

Message Text

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ACTION IO-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-10 EA-07 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-10 L-02

NSC-07 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-14 CU-03 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7986

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TOKYO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 13519

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG OCON UNESCO CB

SUBJECT: KHMER CREDENTIALS AT UNESCO

REF: TOKYO 13141

1. WHILE THE EMBASSY RECOGNIZES THAT BOTH THE DEPARTMENT AND UNESCO PARIS ARE IN BETTER POSITION TO COMMENT ON THE PROPOSAL OF JAPANESE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES DIVISION DIRECTOR ICHIOKA THAT THE GKR LIE LOW AND NOT OFFER ITS CREDENTIALS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE 18TH UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THIS WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE.

2. WHILE WE ARE NOT UP TO DATE ON THE TACTICAL SITUATION AT PARIS AS OF TEN DAYS BEFORE THE OPENING UNESCO SESSION, WE SUSPECT THAT A GOOD DEAL OF WORK HAS ALREADY BEGUN, BASED NOT ONLY ON THE FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS USED IN FAVOR OF THE GKR AND AGAINST THE GRUNK IN THE UNGA AND ELSEWHERE, BUT WITH THE ADDITIONAL, AND IN OUR MINDS, CRUCIAL REASONING THAT UNESCO IS NOT THE FORUM TO DECIDE A POLITICAL QUESTION WHICH HAS BEEN FORMALLY INSCRIBED ON THE UNGA
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AGENDA.

3. THE CREDENTIALS QUESTION COMES UP ON THE OPENING DAY OF THE CONFERENCE, WHILE THE HEAD OF THE JAPANESE DELEGATION IS IN THE PRESIDING CHAIR, PRIOR TO THE ELECTION OF A PRESIDING OFFICER FOR THIS CONFERENCE (WHO COULD WELL BE SOMEONE LESS FAVORABLY INCLINED TO THE GKR POSITION). IT WOULD SEEM TO US THAT FOR THE GKR TO DUCK THE CREDENTIALS ISSUE BY POINTEDLY NOT SHOWING UP AT THE MEMENT WHEN THE ISSUE IS FORMALLY FIXED ON THE AGENDA WOULD BE TO ADMIT DEFEAT WITHOUT A SHOT FIRED AND MIGHT WELL HAVE HARMFUL IMPLICATIONS FOR THE UNGA VOTE, WHENEVER IT MAY OCCUR.

4. EMBASSY OF COURSE DEFERS TO DEPARTMENT'S VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL.
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